

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 IO-10 OPR-02 PER-01 SY-05 OC-05

MC-02 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 USSS-00 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 FBO-02 SCS-03 /088 W

----- 111319

O R 291116Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 407

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN COUP: SITREP 2

HEF : LAGOS 7164

1. AS INDICATION COUP MAY NOT YET BE COUNTRY-WIDE, IBADAN
RADIO STATION WNBS CONTINUING BROADCAST NORMAL PROGRAMMING
WITH NO RPT NO MENTION COUP AS OF 1045 LOCAL. WE HAVE BEEN
IN CONTACT BY TELEPHONE WITH BOTH KADUNA AND IBADAN. KADUNA
REPORTS THAT CITY ALL QUNET.

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2. TRAFFIC BECOMING LIGHTER AND ARMORED CARS NOW APPEARING. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORT THAT THERE LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY CARS AT DODAN BARRACKS; ASSUME THERE IS MEETING GOING ON AT THIS TIME.

3. SAME RECORDED STATEMENT BY COLONEL GARBA CONTINUES TO BE BROADCAST AT ONE-HALF HOUR INTERVALS BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO FURTHER DETAILS.

4. IT STILL NOT RPT NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHO INVOLVED. AS ALWAYS IN THESE SITUATIONS, RUMORS ARE FLYING. ONE OF MOST POPULAR IN THESE EARLY HOURS IS THAT GOWON WAS AWARE OF COUP BEFORE HE LEFT FOR KAMPLA. IN EMBELLISHMENT THIS RUMOR, IT SAID THAT GOWON REMOVED ALL PERSONAL POSSESSIONS FROM DODAN BARRACKS BEFORE HE LEFT FOR UGANDA. THIS RUMOR HAS IT THAT GOWON TOLD TAKE THIS WAY AS EASIEST WAY TO TURN OVER POWER. (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT DANIEL GOWON LEFT FOR US LAST WEEKEND; LAGOS 7088). ALSO, PASSING ARMY MAJOR TOLD EMBASSY EMPLOYEE GENERAL HASSAN KATSINA BEING ASKED HEAD NEW FMG IN "CARETAKER" CAPACITY. REITERATE, HOWEVER, THERE STILL NOTHING FIRM.

5. IN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT DAILY TIMES THIS MORNING (PRINTED BEFORE COUP) HAD ARTICLE QUOTING BRIGADIER T. Y. DANJUMA, COMMANDER THIRD INFANTRY BRIGADE, AS HAVING TOLD REPORTERS IN JOS JULY 28 THAT THERE NOTHING WRONG WITH AGITATION OF PUBLIC FOR RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. DANJUMA FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THE AGITATION FOR RETURN CIVIL RULE MERELY REMAINDER TO MILITARY REGIME THAT IT OVERSTAYING ITS TENURE OF OFFICE.

6. TODAY'S CHUCKLE: MOMENTARILY ONE ARMORED VEHICLE AND THREE LIGHT TANKS STUCK IN GO-SLOW JUST OUTSIDE EMBASSY ON YAKUBU GOWON STREET.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS07201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750261-0253
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750713/aaaaalnn.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN COUP: SITREP 2 HEF : LAGOS 7164
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, NI, (GOWON, YAKUBU)
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006